

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # \_\_\_\_\_

APP # 700180

## **1. Project Description**

### **A. Statement of GO Activity**

This proposed Ground Operations project will entail the following GO activities: 1) purchase of a new off-road rubber-tracked dump vehicle to be used to haul a maximum of 10,000 lb. payload (e.g. crushed boulder rip-rap, aggregate material, small equipment, tools) to off-road remote sites; especially suited for working in riparian areas, rough terrain where minimal impacts to soil is desired; 2) on-going trail maintenance to include basic erosion control treatments such as waterbreaks and cross drains, and rock fill; 3) on-going sanitation (e.g. cleaning restrooms/portable toilets, purchase of cardboard commodes and wag bags); 4) on-going trash disposal services of existing dumpsters at Loon Lake and at Tahoma); 5) purchase and installation of: a) raised pavement reflectors for night-time navigation and b) flexible marker posts to delineate the trail.

This proposed project is one of four projects being submitted for OHMVR funding this 2008-09 funding cycle, and is an initial phase

of a long-term resource management plan El Dorado County DOT is in the process of developing. Additional phases of work will be submitted for OHMVR funding in subsequent funding cycles.

### **B. Relation of Proposed Project to OHV Recreation**

The proposed project is located along the Rubicon Trail, a world-renowned OHV resource that is the birthplace of organized 4x4 recreation in California. The Rubicon Trail is now widely recognized as the premiere OHV route in the United States and has been called the "crown jewel of all off highway trails," and has continually provided OHV recreation for over 50 years. At one time, it was revered as the most difficult, rated 10 on a scale of one to 10, due to its narrow passages, rocky climbs, and occasional mud hole.

The Rubicon Trail attracts both street legal and "green sticker" off-road motor vehicles. As a result, users travel the trail on and in wide range of all-terrain vehicles, including dirt bikes and a variety of 4-wheel drive vehicles, from street-legal SUVs to vehicles built for the sole purpose of driving the trail. Because the trail lies adjacent to the Desolation Wilderness, the Rubicon Trail is also used as an access route by hikers, backpackers, and fishers.

The Trail is a non-maintained County road that follows the alignment of the mid-1800 wagon road from the Wentworth Springs area to Lake Tahoe. Parts of the trail pass through the El Dorado National Forest and cross private lands. While the current trail travels the same route from Wentworth Springs to Rubicon Springs that has been used since the 1860s, it changes a little each season, due to erosion and vehicle traffic. As vehicles bypass "bad spots" or avoid broken or abandoned vehicles, the trail deviates more significantly from the original route. Drivers looking for a more "fun" route cause additional damage, as do today's larger and modified vehicles, making their way over the much smaller original wagon road.

This proposed Ground Operations project requests funding to continue El Dorado County's ongoing operations and maintenance of the Rubicon Trail that will include treatments to mitigate erosion such as installation of water breaks and rock fill; and enhance water quality, while also sustaining OHV recreation opportunities along the Trail.

### **C. Size of the Project**

The Rubicon Trail 4-wheel drive route extends from Georgetown (at State Highway 193 in El Dorado County) to Lake Tahoe (near Tahoma in Placer County) for a total distance of approximately 22 miles. The unmaintained portion of the trail in El Dorado County extends from the Wentworth Springs Campground (western limit) and Loon Lake (southern limit) to the Placer County Line (northeastern limit) is about 12 miles long and winds through the trees and rugged granite common to the area. Parts of the trail also pass through the Eldorado National Forest and portions of private lands.

The proposed Project site is along the portion of the trail that includes the Ellis Creek Crossing. From the Ellis Creek

Crossing (CP-1.0-8700), the project site extends south to CP-1.0-7194; this segment of the project area is 1,506 linear feet. From the Ellis Creek Crossing, the project site extends east to CP-1.0-9467 is 767 feet. The total size of the proposed Project site is 2,273 linear feet or approximately 0.5 miles. A map of the proposed project site is included as an attachment.

#### **D. Location and description of OHV opportunities**

The Rubicon Trail is located in the California High Sierra, due west of Lake Tahoe, approximately 80 miles east of Sacramento, and 35 miles east of Placerville. This world-renowned 4-wheel drive route leads from Georgetown (at State Highway 193 in El Dorado County) to Lake Tahoe (near Tahoma in Placer County) for a total distance of approximately 22 miles. The unmaintained portion of the trail in El Dorado County extends from the Wentworth Springs Campground (western limit) and Loon Lake (southern limit) to the Placer County Line (northeastern limit) is about 12 miles long and winds through the trees and rugged granite common to the area. Parts of the trail pass through the Eldorado National Forest and portions of private lands.

Elevations run from approximately 5400 to over 7,000 feet (approximately 1,646 meters to over 2,134 meters). The section of road from Georgetown to Wentworth Springs (also known as the McKinney-Rubicon Springs Road) is a maintained road, while the off-highway vehicle (OHV) trail begins near Wentworth Springs Campground. There is an additional trailhead at Loon Lake that ties into the trail just south of the Ellis Creek crossing. Most visitors begin the run from either Wentworth Springs Campground or Loon Lake, which are accessible off U.S. Highway 50. The trail from the Wentworth Springs trailhead starts with an uphill climb. Once at the top, the trail levels out to a challenging drive to Ellis Creek. From Ellis Creek, the trail winds through the trees and rugged granite on its way to Walker Hill. From Walker Hill, the trail winds over granite to the north of Spider Lake and descends southward to Buck Island Lake. The trail then climbs east at the edge of the Desolation Wilderness area and then drops due north into Rubicon Springs. The trail continues east into Placer County and ends at Tahoma.

Existing OHV opportunities in and around the proposed Project Area attract both street legal and "green sticker" off-road motor vehicles. As a result, users travel the trail on and in a wide range of all-terrain vehicles, including dirt bikes, ATVs and a variety of 4-wheel drive vehicles, from street-legal SUVs to vehicles built for the sole purpose of driving the trail. Because of its difficulty, the trail is recommended for short wheelbase vehicles with all skid plates in place.

## **2. Rerouting Requirements**

### **Rerouting**

(a) Does your project involve rerouting of any roads and trails? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If response to question (a) is 'Yes', a Project timeline, conceptual drawings and site plans are required (See 'Attachments' tab at the top of the screen)

If response to question (a) is 'No', skip details related to rerouting

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1. **Project Timeline (Required if project includes necessary rerouting)**
2. **Conceptual Drawings and Site Plans (Required if project includes necessary rerouting)**

3 **Project-Specific Maps**

Attachments:

[Rubicon Trail Ellis Creek Crossing Area Map](#)

4. **Optional Project-Specific Application Documents**

Attachments:

[Rubicon Trail Ellis Creek Crossing Area Photos](#)

[Off-Road Rubber-Tracked Dump Vehicle Photo](#)

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009  
 Agency: El Dorado County Transportation Department  
 Application: Ground Operations - Rubicon Trail, Ellis Creek Crossing Area

6/2/2009

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:		Version # _____	APP # _____
<b>APPLICANT NAME :</b>	El Dorado County Transportation Department		
<b>PROJECT TITLE :</b>	Ground Operations - Rubicon Trail, Ellis Creek Crossing Area	<b>PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :</b>	
<b>PROJECT TYPE :</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Development <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Safety <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration		
<b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION :</b>	<p>This proposed Ground Operations project will entail the following GO activities: 1) purchase of a new off-road rubber-tracked dump vehicle to be used to haul a maximum of 10,000 lb. payload (e.g. crushed boulder rip-rap, aggregate material, small equipment, tools) to off-road remote sites; especially suited for working in riparian areas, rough terrain where minimal impacts to soil is desired; 2) on-going trail maintenance to include basic erosion control treatments such as waterbreaks and cross drains, and rock fill; 3) on-going sanitation (e.g. cleaning restrooms/portable toilets, purchase of cardboard commodes and wag bags); 4) on-going trash disposal services of existing dumpsters at Loon Lake and at Tahoma); 5) purchase and installation of: a) raised pavement reflectors for night-time navigation and b) flexible marker posts to delineate the trail.</p> <p>This proposed project is one of four projects being submitted for OHMVR funding this 2008-09 funding cycle, and is an initial phase of a long-term resource management plan El Dorado County DOT is in the process of developing. Additional phases of work will be submitted for OHMVR funding in subsequent funding cycles.</p>		

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
<b>DIRECT EXPENSES</b>							
<b>Program Expenses</b>							
1	Staff						
	Other-Maint. Worker II	80.000	52.100	HRS	0.00	4,168.00	4,168.00
	Other-Maint. Worker III	160.000	55.950	HRS	0.00	8,952.00	8,952.00
	Other-Sr Maint. Worker	80.000	63.230	HRS	0.00	5,058.00	5,058.00
	Other-Maint. Supervisor	80.000	73.220	HRS	0.00	5,858.00	5,858.00
	Other-Maint Superintendent	18.000	119.000	HRS	0.00	2,142.00	2,142.00
	Other-Equip. Superintendent - Bid specs	10.000	77.430	HRS	0.00	774.00	774.00
	Other-Proj Mgmt/Grant Admin	16.000	66.900	HRS	0.00	1,070.00	1,070.00
	Other-Admin Tech - Bid prep	12.000	44.740	HRS	0.00	537.00	537.00
	<b>Total for Staff</b>				0.00	28,559.00	28,559.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009  
Agency: El Dorado County Transportation Department  
Application: Ground Operations - Rubicon Trail, Ellis Creek Crossing Area

6/2/2009

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
<b>2</b>	<b>Contracts</b>						
	Other-vault toilet pumping	1.000	2200.000	YR	0.00	2,200.00	2,200.00
	Other-restroom cleaning	1.000	1800.000	YR	0.00	1,800.00	1,800.00
	<b>Total for Contracts</b>				0.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
<b>3</b>	<b>Materials / Supplies</b>						
	Other-Raised Pavement Relector	100.000	1.250	EA	0.00	125.00	125.00
	Other-Flexible Delineator Post	100.000	0.750	EA	0.00	75.00	75.00
	Other-Cardboard Commodes	100.000	28.000	EA	2,800.00	0.00	2,800.00
	Other-Disposable Toilet Bags	1500.000	3.000	EA	4,500.00	0.00	4,500.00
	Other-3/4 inch Aggregate Base	100.000	25.000	YD	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
	<b>Total for Materials / Supplies</b>				7,300.00	2,700.00	10,000.00
<b>4</b>	<b>Equipment Use Expenses</b>						
	Other-off-road track-mounted excavator	10.000	150.000	DAY	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00
	Other-off-road track-mounted skid steer	10.000	150.000	DAY	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00
	Other-off-road track-mounted dump vehicl	10.000	300.000	DAY	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00
	Other-Refuse Dumpster	2.000	3000.000	EA	6,000.00	0.00	6,000.00
	Other-Front Loader	20.000	51.250	HRS	0.00	1,025.00	1,025.00
	Other-4 x 4 pickup	80.000	7.500	HRS	0.00	600.00	600.00
	Other-Dump Truck	40.000	31.250	HRS	0.00	1,250.00	1,250.00
	<b>Total for Equipment Use Expenses</b>				12,000.00	2,875.00	14,875.00
<b>5</b>	<b>Equipment Purchases</b>						
	Other-Off-Road Rubber-Tracked Dump Vehic	1.000	96000.000	EA	96,000.00	0.00	96,000.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009  
 Agency: El Dorado County Transportation Department  
 Application: Ground Operations - Rubicon Trail, Ellis Creek Crossing Area

6/2/2009

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
6	Others						
7	Administrative Costs						
	Administrative Costs-Indirect	1.000	4000.000	EA	0.00	4,000.00	4,000.00
Total Program Expenses					115,300.00	42,134.00	157,434.00
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES					115,300.00	42,134.00	157,434.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES					115,300.00	42,134.00	157,434.00

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009  
Agency: El Dorado County Transportation Department  
Application: Ground Operations - Rubicon Trail, Ellis Creek Crossing Area

6/2/2009

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
<b>DIRECT EXPENSES</b>					
<b>Program Expenses</b>					
1	Staff	0.00	28,559.00	28,559.00	
2	Contracts	0.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	7,300.00	2,700.00	10,000.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	12,000.00	2,875.00	14,875.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	96,000.00	0.00	96,000.00	
6	Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	
7	Administrative Costs	0.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>		115,300.00	42,134.00	157,434.00	
<b>TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES</b>		115,300.00	42,134.00	157,434.00	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>		<b>115,300.00</b>	<b>42,134.00</b>	<b>157,434.00</b>	

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**ITEM 1 and ITEM 2**

**ITEM 1**

- a. ITEM 1 - Has a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) been filed for the Project? ☐ Yes ☒ No  
(Please select Yes or No)

**ITEM 2**

- b. ITEM 2 - Are the proposed activities a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378? ☒ Yes ☐ No  
(Please select Yes or No)
- c. The Application is requesting funds solely for personnel and support to enforce OHV laws and ensure public safety. These activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No
- d. Other. Explain why proposed activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 3 – 9

**ITEM 3 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands**

The proposed Ground Operations Project is categorically exempt under CEQA pursuant to Section 15301(c) "Existing Facilities" of the CEQA Guidelines. Therefore, no significant impacts on wetlands, navigable waters, and sensitive habitats and species (including threatened and endangered species) would occur as a result of this Project.

**ITEM 4 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project**

The proposed Ground Operations Project is categorically exempt under CEQA pursuant to Section 15301(c) "Existing Facilities" of the CEQA Guidelines. Therefore, no significant cumulative impacts, such as increased noise or traffic, would occur as a result of this Project.

**ITEM 5 - Soil Impacts**

The proposed Ground Operations Project is categorically exempt under CEQA pursuant to Section 15301(c) "Existing Facilities" of the CEQA Guidelines. Therefore, no significant effect on the environment due to steep slopes or highly erosive soils would occur as a result of this Project.

**ITEM 6 - Damage to Scenic Resources**

The Rubicon Trail is not a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway, and therefore, the potential damage to scenic resources within the viewshed is not applicable to this proposed Project. The Rubicon Trail is not within the viewshed of a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway.

**ITEM 7 - Hazardous Materials**

Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards.

**ITEM 8 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources**



Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the potential impacts and for any substantially adverse changes in the significance of historical or cultural resources and measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the impacts.

#### **ITEM 9 - Indirect Significant Impacts**

The proposed Ground Operations Project is categorically exempt under CEQA pursuant to Section 15301(c) "Existing Facilities" of the CEQA Guidelines. Therefore, no indirect significant impacts, either by causing user groups to go elsewhere, causing significant impacts off-site, or significantly increasing use in the vicinity of the Project site would occur as a result of this Project.

#### **CEQA/NEPA Attachment**

Attachments:

[CEQA NOE Filed 05-04-2009](#)

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**1. Project Cost Estimate - Q 1. (Auto populates from Cost Estimate)**

1. As calculated on the Project Cost Estimate, the percentage of the cost of the Project covered by the Applicant is 3

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ 76% or more (10 points)  
☐ 51% - 75% (5 points)  
☒ 26% - 50% (3 points)  
☐ 25% (Match minimum) (No points)

**2. Failure to Complete - Q 2.**

2. Failure to complete the Project would result in: 8

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 8 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Loss of OHV Opportunity (6 points)  
☒ Negative impact to cultural sites (2 points)  
☒ Damage to special-status species or other sensitive habitat (2 points)  
☒ Potential trespass (2 points)  
☒ Additional damage to Facilities (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

Failure to maintain the Rubicon Trail and install erosion control measures will restrict OHV use. Part of the trail maintenance is to create barriers to off-trail travel. Preventing off-trail travel minimizes negative impacts to cultural sites, damages to sensitive habitat, and/or potential trespass. The off-road rubber-tracked dump vehicle is essential to deliver rock and other material required to maintain the trail. The track-mounted vehicle has less footprint due to the width of rubber tracks versus wheeled vehicle. This type of vehicle is commonly used in restoration work due to low impact on soil areas.

**3. Sustain OHV Opportunity - Q 3.**

3. The Project would sustain OHV Opportunity by 12

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Maintaining trail or road tread (5 points)  
☒ Installing or repairing erosion control features (3 points)  
☒ Providing traffic control and/or educational signage (3 points)  
☒ Maintaining multi use (ATV, Dirt Bikes, 4x4, etc) (1 point)  
☐ Providing varied levels of riding difficulty (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

The off-road rubber-tracked dump vehicle is critical to deliver rock and other material for trail maintenance, restoration and erosion control projects. Raised pavement reflectors for nighttime navigation and flexible marker posts to delineate the trail will provide traffic control. Continued maintenance using this equipment will enhance opportunities for various OHV use, including ATVs, dirt bikes and 4 x 4s.

**4. Public Input - Q 4.**

4. The Project was developed with public input employing the following 1

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 2 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☐ Meeting(s) with the general public to discuss Project (1 point)

- ☐ Conference call(s) with interested parties (1 point)  
☒ Meeting(s) with stakeholders (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

Meetings held with user groups including monthly meetings with the Rubicon Oversight Committee (ROC) to gather input relative to the type of equipment needed to maintain the Rubicon Trail; Similar equipment worked very well on past projects; Discussed at staff level and gathered input from equipment operators on the efficiency and operation of this machine.

**5. Utilization of Partnerships - Q 5.**

5. The Project will utilize partnerships to successfully accomplish the Project. The number of partner organizations that will participate in the Project are 4

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☒ 4 or more (4 points) ☐ 2 to 3 (2 points)  
☐ 1 (1 point) ☐ None (No points)

List partner organization(s):

Rubicon Trail Foundation (RTF), Friends of the Rubicon (FOTR), Rubicon Trail Partnership, Inc. (RTP), Tread Lightly, State Department of Conservation California Geological Survey, US Forest Service (USFS)

**6. Impact to Natural and Cultural Resources - Q 6.**

6. The Project will avoid and/or minimize impact to natural and cultural resources by 6

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 7 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Maintaining physical barriers to control OHV use (1 point)  
☒ Protecting water quality (1 point)  
☐ Providing bridges instead of wet crossings where appropriate (1 point)  
☒ Protecting special-status species (1 point)  
☒ Re-routing trails to divert away from riparian/wetlands areas (1 point)  
☒ Providing sanitary facilities (1 point)  
☒ Protecting cultural site(s) (1 point)  
☐ Site design precludes the need for the above measures (7 points)

Explain each statement that was checked

Will allow large volume of needed Rip Rap and boulder material to be delivered to remote area to install water breaks, silt basins and various erosion control measures; to control sediment flow and protect streams from silt. Delivery of material to block and/or divert traffic from wetlands will be a direct result of using this equipment. Part of the trail maintenance is to create barriers to off-trail travel. Preventing off-trail travel minimizes negative impacts to cultural sites, damages to sensitive habitat, and/or potential trespass. The sanitary restroom located at the Loon Lake trailhead will be maintained as part of this grant proposal. If this Ground Operations project is not selected for funding, the Loon Lake restroom may need to be closed, which would have a negative impact on the natural resources by trail users not properly disposing their human waste.

**7. Recycled Materials - Q 7.**

7. The Project incorporates recycled materials by utilizing 3

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Barrier materials which include recycled content or materials obtained onsite (1 point)  
☒ Signs, sign posts or education kiosks which use products with recycled content (1 point)  
☐ Erosion control features which use materials with recycled content (1 point)  
☒ Paper used for trail maps which includes recycled content (1 point)

☐ Other products with recycled content (Specify) (1 point)

**8. Sustainable Technologies - Q 8.**

8. The Project makes substantial use of sustainable technologies such as 4

- Alternative fuel vehicles and equipment
- Renewable energy sources (e.g., solar, wind)
- Low volatile organic compound emission materials (e.g., paint, sealants, carpet)
- Low flow plumbing fixtures
- Water efficient landscaping

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

☐ No (No points)

☒ Yes (4 points)

Explain 'Yes' response

All of the maintenance equipment that will be used in the ground operations has been retrofitted with particulate matter devices in conformance with the California Air Resources Board requirements. The County has met early compliance of the mandated CARB regulations.

**9. Motorized Access - Q 9.**

9. The Project improves and/or maintains facilities that provide motorized access to the following non-motorized recreation opportunities 6

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 2 points each, up to a maximum of 6 points (Please select applicable values)

☒ Camping

☐ Birding

☒ Hiking

☐ Equestrian trails

☒ Fishing

☐ Rock Climbing

☐ Other (Specify)